

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15
SP-02 TRSE-00 OIC-02 NRC-05 /068 W
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O 091326Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1382
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 04612

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: DPC, NATO, MPOL
SUBJECT: DRAFT DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE: MISSION COMMENTS

REFS: (A) USNATO 4593 (DTG 081757Z MAY 78),
(B) STATE 112298 (DTG 030022Z MAY 78)
(C) STATE 110029 (DTG 291829Z) NOTAL

1. THOUGH THE LONG TERM DEFENCE PROGRAM (LTDP) IS COVERED
IN RATHER BRIEF OUTLINE FORM IN THE BODY OF THE DPC MINI-
STERIAL COMMUNIQUE (REF A), THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS),
CONSISTENT WITH PAST TREATMENT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AND
THE 1970 COVERAGE OF THE AD-70 REPORT, HAS PREPARED A
PROPOSED ANNEX TO THE COMMUNIQUE THAT SUMMARIZES THE
MEASURES TO BE APPROVED BY MINISTERS IN EACH OF THE NINE
PROGRAM AREAS.

2. THIS APPROACH ACCORDS WITH THE MISSION VIEW THAT THE
DPC PUBLIC DOCUMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE RATHER FULL COVERAGE
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OF THE LTDP, BECAUSE (A) IT IS DEFENSE MINISTERS WHO WILL
APPROVE THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMS OF THE LTDP WITH
SUMMIT ACTION LIMITED TO ENDORSEMENT OF THE LTDP AND
ADDRESSAL OF SELECTED ISSUES, AND (B) IF WE FAIL TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY THE DPC COMMUNI-
QUE, WE RISK LOSING ANY SUBSTANTIVE COVERAGE OF THE LTDP
SHOULD SUMMIT COVERAGE BE OVERWHELMED BY PRESS PLAY GIVEN

TO FACT OF HIGH LEVEL GATHERING RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE
ISSUING FROM SUMMIT.

3. IT IS FOR THESE REASONS, PLUS THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT
SUMMIT HANDLING OF THE LTDP RAISED BY THE LAST MINUTE
CANADIAN INITIATIVE, THAT WE DID NOT RAISE REF B WITH DSYG
PETRIGNANI. THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 8 DPC CONSIDERATION OF
THE LTDP REPORT (SEPTEL) HAVE REINFORCED OUR VIEWS. THOUGH
PERMREPS DID NOT SUPPORT THE CANADIAN REDRAFT OF THE LTDP
REPORT AS SUCH, THE RESIDUAL EFFECT OF THE CANADIAN
INITIATIVE WAS TO ATTRACT ALLIED SUPPORT FOR LIMITING SUM-
MIT PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ESSENCE OF THE
LTDP AND PLACING THE LTDP IN A MORE "POLITICAL CONTEXT".
ADDED TO THIS, OF COURSE, ARE THE OTHER COMPLEXITIES, SUCH
AS FRENCH PARTICIPATION, WHICH MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT
COVERAGE OF THE LTDP IN SUMMIT PUBLIC DOCUMENTS. IN VIEW
OF THE ABOVE, OUR VIEW CONTINUES TO BE AGAINST GENERALIZING
OR TONING DOWN COVERAGE OF THE LTDP IN THE DPC PUBLIC
DOCUMENTS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE APPROACH PROPOSED BY THE
IS (REF A) IS ABOUT RIGHT.

4. IF, HOWEVER, WASHINGTON STILL BELIEVES TO THE CONTRARY
(REF B) AND PLANS TO PROPOSE A 5-6 PAGE PUBLIC RELEASE ON
THE LTDP (PARA 7, REF C) EITHER FOR THE SUMMIT OR AS AN
ALTERNATIVE TO THAT PREPARED BY THE IS FOR THE DPC MINI-
STERIAL (REF A), WE WILL NEED THIS TEXT QUICKLY SINCE THE
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INITIAL DRAFTING SESSIONS FOR BOTH THE SUMMIT AND DPC COM-
MUNIQUE COMMENCE HERE ON MAY 9 AND 10 RESPECTIVELY.

5. ON THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE ITSELF (PARA 5, REF A), WE
BELIEVE THE IS HAS DONE A GENERALLY GOOD JOB. OUR COMMENTS
ON THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOW:

. - PRESENTATIONAL ORDERING. AFTER INTRODUCING THE LTDP
IN PARA 2, THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE LEAVES THE READER DANGLING
BY NOT RETURNING TO THIS ISSUE UNTIL PARA 8, COVERING IN
THE INTERIM, INTER ALIA, MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, FORCE GOALS,
EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, MBFR AND SALT. WE BELIEVE THAT (A)
THE LTDP -- AS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE MINISTERIAL --
SHOULD RECEIVE "UP-FRONT" TREATMENT IN THE COMMUNIQUE,
RATHER THAN BEING RELEGATED TO THE MIDDLE OF THE TEXT,
AND (B) THE PRESENTATIONAL FLOW WOULD BE IMPROVED BY
PROMOTING PARAS 8-10 TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY PARA 2.

. - THREE PERCENT INCREASES. RATHER THAN APPENDING THE
TURN-AROUND IN ALLIED DEFENSE SPENDING ALMOST AS AN
AFTERTHOUGHT IN THE ADDRESSAL OF NATO FORCE GOALS IN
PARA 6, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IT BE LINKED DIRECTLY TO

THE DISCUSSION OF 1977 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE IN PARA 3.

. - NPG (PARA 10). TO REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY MINISTERIAL ACTION ON THEATER NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF THIS PARAGRAPH BE REWORDED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "MINISTERS ALSO ENDORSED THE CONTINUING EFFORTS OF NATO'S NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP TOWARDS MEETING THE MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM NEEDS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 04612

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF WASHINGTON HAS ANY PRELIMINARY VIEWS TO REGISTER AT THE MAY 10 INFORMAL DRC DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE, WE WILL NEED THEM BY OPENING OF BUSINESS THAT DAY. BENNETT
BT
#4612

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